



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Thursday, December 9, 1999

COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER SWAMPED WITH OLD PHONE BOOKS

Residents asked to keep 1999 books until January

Monroe County asks all residents and businesses to hold 1999 telephone books for recycling in January 2000. The components of the books add additional hand-sorting, baling and shipping strains to the already voluminous demands at the Monroe County Recycle Center during the holiday season.

Sorting recycled materials is performed manually at the County's Recycling Center, 384 Lee Road, and isolating the telephone directories from the holiday advertisements, newspaper inserts and gift packaging is extremely difficult this time of year.

Residents and businesses should place telephone directories in their blue boxes for regular waste hauler collection in January. After the first of the year, the paper process returns to its normal volume, allowing phone books to be separated and sent to the proper paper mill.

Few paper mills are willing to accept phone books for recycling because of their high ink content, thin paper and binding glue. Phone books are actually considered a contaminant by the paper mills that make newspaper. They cannot be included in the truckloads of newspaper, catalogs, advertising inserts and magazines that are shipped from the Recycling Center to paper mills each day.

Phone books, or any recyclable, should not be placed in plastic grocery bags, only brown, paper grocery bags and only if needed to separate items within the blue box. Plastic bags slow the sorting process at the Recycling Center and should only be recycled at area markets.

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*For further information, call:
Communications and Special Events, 428-2380*

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